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UPI 411TH WA

WASHINGTON, APRIL 28 (UPI)--NEW CIA CHIEF WILLIAM F. RABORN TOOK COMMAND OF AMERICA'S CLOAK-AND-DAGGER CORPS TODAY WITH THE PROMISE TO DO ALL HE CAN TO "LIVE UP TO THE CONFIDENCE" PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS EXPRESSED IN HIM.

RABORN, DEVELOPER OF THE POLARIS MISSILE, STEPPED INTO THE SHADOWS THAT ENVELOPS HIS NEW OUTFIT--THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA)--WHEN JOSHED AT HIS WHITE HOUSE SWEARING-IN, "THAT WAS HIS LAST PUBLIC SPEECH."

JOHNSON PRESIDED AT THE SWEARING-IN OF RABORNAND THE NEW NO. 2 CIA OFFICIAL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR RICHARD M. HELMS. THE PRESIDENT OBSERVED THAT RABORN'S TWO IMMEDIATE PREDECESSORS AS CIA DIRECTOR, JOHN A. MCCONE AND ALLEN W. DULLES, BOTH WERE REPUBLICANS. HE SAID HE HAD NOT ASKED RABORN ABOUT HIS POLITICS.

"BUT I DO KNOW ABOUT HIS TALENTS," THE PRESIDENT REMARKED, ADDING THAT "HIS GENIUS WAS PROVED" IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLARIS, AND THAT HE EXPECTED AN EQUALLY TALENTED PERFORMANCE IN DIRECTING THE CIA.

JOHNSON PRAISED HELMS, A FORMER UNITED PRESS REPORTER, WHO MADE INTELLIGENCE WORK A CAREER AFTER WORLD WAR II, AS "ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED PROFESSIONAL CAREER MEN" IN WASHINGTON. HELMS HAS BEEN DEPUTY PLANS DIRECTOR FOR THE CIA SINCE 1947.

BOTH MCCONE AND DULLES WERE ON HAND AT THE WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY TO CONGRATULATE RABORN. MCCONE, WHO RESIGNED TO RETURN TO FAMILY BUSINESS INTERESTS ON THE WEST COAST, WAS HONORED AT A PRIVATE RECEPTION LAST NIGHT BY THE PRESIDENT.

JOHNSON PRESENTED THE NATIONAL SECURITY MEDAL TO MCCONE FOR HIS "DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP TO THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE EFFORT OF OUR NATION." THE AWARD HAS BEEN MADE ONLY 11 OTHER TIMES. ESTABLISHED BY PRESIDENT HARRY S TRUMAN, IT LAST WAS PRESENTED TO DULLES.

THE PRESIDENT OBSERVED THAT IT WAS NO LESS TRUE TODAY THAN AT THE FOUNDING OF THIS COUNTRY THAT ETERNAL VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE OF LIBERTY.

HE SAID THE CIA WAS A VITAL PART IN THIS ETERNAL VIGILANCE AND HE ANTICIPATED A WELL-RUN AGENCY UNDER RABORN.

AS RABORN AND HELMS TOOK THEIR COMMISSIONS, THEY WERE LOUDLY APPLAUDED BY VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, DEFENSE SECRETARY ROBERT S. MCNAMARA, FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER, SECRET SERVICE CHIEF JAMES ROWLEY AND OTHERS. RABORN THEN STEPPED TO A MICROPHONE AND SAID:

"WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE PRESIDENT. MR. HELMS AND I WILL DO OUR BEST TO LIVE UP TO THE CONFIDENCE HE HAS SHOWN IN US."

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